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Before the Federal Communications Commission in the matter of RM-10740
Opposition comments filed by Brian L. Crow, M.Ed.
Amateur Service licensee K3VR

I hold an Amateur Extra class license. I was first licensed in 1976, my first callsign was WA1WPD, issued when I was 16. I use Amateur Radio on a daily basis. I have engaged in experimentation, contesting, equipment building, passing emergency traffic, Skywarn, and casual operating in nearly every mode on nearly every part of the spectrum allocated to the Amateur Service.

My comments in opposition to this petition are as follows:

1. FCC rules, in their current iteration, already adequately discuss bandwidth.
2. The petition as written may negatively impact Amateurs with hearing disabilities. Relevant research is being conducted as of this writing. A costly government sponsored study may need to be performed to adequately determine if this hypothesis is correct. If rulemaking does impact those with hearing deficiencies, any new rule in this regard may be in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
3. Several current FCC type-accepted radios transmit SSB signals wider than 2.8 kHz without modification. These radios may require recertification to bring them into compliance with the proposed regulations. If so, the question(s) must arise; at what cost, and by whom will the recertification expenses be borne, and using what justification? Rhetorically; does the Commission desire to limit experimentation in the facilitation of contesting?
4. Many amateurs use these FCC type-accepted radios on many different bands on a daily basis, apparently without engendering complaints of any kind from other users.
5. The petition as written is technically flawed on a number of points, exemplified by many of the comments already submitted, which need not be replicated here. Please see comments by amateur's WA3VJB, K2PG, (and others) as examples.
6. In my personal experience, admittedly spanning only 27 years, it is self-evident that a great deal more interference arises from contesting than has ever been reported from experimentation with pleasant sounding SSB audio. However, most Amateur operators show a great deal of forbearance during contests, recognizing that the service is diverse

enough to accomodate many varied interests. I have encountered interference on many occasions by testers rudely seizing frequencies with overdriven amplifiers and distorted audio chains, but only on two occasions have I been adversely affected by audio experimenters. My recourse in those two instances was to find a clear frequency, not to burden the Commission by seeking rulemaking to prevent experimentation.

7. Paradoxically, this petition seeks to limit amateur experimentation due to interference issues. A paradox because experimentation is an integral part of the basis and purpose of Amateur Radio. There are legitimate concerns with transmission of wider signals and the equitable use of spectrum. In such cases all parties involved should be reminded of accepted and traditional means to mediate interference issues, two of which are courtesy and common sense.

8. FCC enforcement staff are already burdened with numerous enforcement tasks. Trying to determine apparent liability and citing those with an SSB bandwidth wider than 2.8 kHz, or 5.6 kHz on AM will likely raise the costs of enforcement leading to the question; who will pay for these added costs and with what revenue stream?

9. A large number of dedicated operators use AM, using vintage AM equipment on the air today, that would be rendered illegal by this petition. It is not in the best interest of the service to alienate a large segment of amateur operators who comprise some of its most technically proficient engineers and experimenters, for what appears to be a very limited interference complaint.

9. If the Commission determines that a bandwidth proposal is in the best interest of the Amateur Service, the current proposal should be discarded in favor of a different proposal creating sub-bands for bandwidth rather than mode. Vast amounts of unused spectrum now allocated for CW and digital modes could be used to accomodate those with an interest in audio experimentation.

Please dismiss RM-10740 without further action.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amateur Licensee, K3VR